

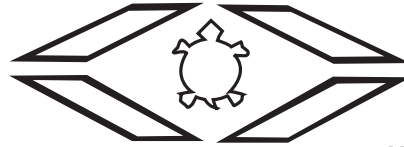
For Immediate Release

July 24, 2006

Contact: Tohanash Tarrant

Email: info@SupportNativeBusiness.com

Phone: 631.924.1780



Native American Business Alliance
Long Island

Press Release

Native American Business Alliance Urges Governor Pataki to Veto Cigarette Manufacturer Bill: Bill Unfairly Targets Indian-owned Businesses

Long Island, New York—The Native American Business Alliance of Long Island (NABA) urges Governor Pataki to veto A10859, a bill that would prohibit cigarette manufacturers from selling to wholesalers who supply to tax-free businesses on Indian reservations. If this bill is signed into law, Indian-owned businesses in Long Island, and all over the state of New York, could be shut down.

“Signing this bill would be a violation of centuries-old treaties protecting the right of Indian Nations surrounded by New York to sell tax-free tobacco and other goods on their own reservations,” says Shinnecock Chairman Lance Gumbs. “We are asking that the Governor veto this thinly-veiled attack on our right to work towards economic independence.”

“I am appalled that the Legislature would pass such a law when two-thirds of New Yorkers support allowing Indian-owned businesses to sell products on our reservations tax-free,” says Unkechaug Chief Harry Wallace. “Now it is in the hands of the Governor to listen to the will of the people.”

With over 5,000 supporters, the NABA has launched a grassroots effort to show support for Indian-owned businesses in Long Island. The group held its first rally and press conference on June 14, 2006, and plans to hold its second event in August. Representatives from tribes across New York are expected to attend.

Indian smoke shops employ and support hundreds of tribal members with healthcare and retirement benefits and generate economic activity for local, non-Indian businesses that supply their stores. In addition, the shops help Indian Nations pay their own way; using some of the profits to fix schools and playgrounds, support community development, and provide scholarships and after-school programs for Native children. To learn more, visit www.SupportNativeBusiness.com.

The Native American Business Alliance of Long Island represents the Nations and the Indian-owned stores of the Unkechaug and Shinnecock Nations. We have formed this coalition because without help from our friends, neighbors and business colleagues, these stores will be shut down—ending a vital source of economic activity. Visit SupportNativeBusiness.com for more information.